

The CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 26

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2001

25°

The Lumbee River Fund is "Telling Our Own Stories"

By Malinda Maynor, Coordinator, Lumbee River Fund
PEMBROKE, NC—Retired Lumbee schoolteacher LaRuth Sampson Alway had never been in a canoe before paddling one down the Lumber River last March. "This is so beautiful!" she exclaimed. "It's inspiring to spend time on the river that gave us our people's life and name." Mrs. Alway was on a canoe trip sponsored by the Lumbee River Fund, a new history preservation effort that supports a project to have Indian people tell their own version of history.

What do canoes and history have to do with each other? "This river is our home, where we come from," says Waltz Maynor, another retired teacher and a member of the Lumbee River Fund's advisory committee. "Our community is full of stories. Many Indian families have ancestors and elders who participated in important events, and we all have everyday stories that teach important lessons. Some of those stories took place on this river, and the people that made the events happen all spent time on the river. We're celebrating the past by being here."

"So much of what our people have got is passing, if we don't do it, no one will know about it," says Mrs. Della Locklear of Robeson County's Prospect community. Mrs. Locklear wants the stories and the history of her Lumbee Indian community to be protected, and she sees that the generations are coming together to do it. She says, "It's a new day for our young people, and it's bringing our elders forth."

The Lumbee River Fund is a resource for Sampson, Locklear, and all Indians from the Robeson County area to tell history as they remember it. The Fund's mission is to collect those stories and preserve them for future generations. The Lumbee River Fund is a collaboration between UNC Pembroke, Robeson County's Indian Education Resource Center, the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, and a diverse group

of artists, writers and community members who are committed to preserving the history of Indians in and around Robeson County. "With this project we come together and recognize how not everybody remembers the past the same way, but that all the perspectives are important to honor," says Linda Oxendine, an advisory committee member and chair of American Indian Studies at UNC-Pembroke. The advisory committee has met monthly for the last year to discuss the Fund's purpose and goals. Josephine Humphreys, the author of *Nowhere Else on Earth*, a novel that re-creates the life of Rhoda Strong and the Civil War era of Henry Berry Lowry, created the Fund with a donation to UNC-P. Humphreys is interested in giving back to the Lumbee community that gave her so much as she researched this book. Ms. Humphreys says, "The Indians in this community have taught me so much. I hope this gift keeps their brilliant past alive."

Malinda Maynor, a Lumbee graduate student in History at UNC Chapel Hill and a documentary filmmaker, is the Fund's Coordinator. "Rather than just have scholars tell us who we are and what's important, the advisory committee believes that Indians in and around Robeson County should be the ones to tell about our own history," she says. "Our community already possesses the interest and knowledge to do this work; we just need resources to make it happen. The Lumbee River Fund hopes to provide some of those resources to Indian people who are interested in preserving the past." The Fund's ultimate goal is to preserve the record of Southeastern North Carolina Indian history—photos, artifacts, documents, audio tapes, maps, books and articles—and promote a coherent, consistent, and accessible collection of materials to be stored in Pembroke. UNCP's Native American Resource Center and the Indian Educa-

tion Resource Center, already important repositories of Lumbee historical documents and artifacts, have taken lead roles in shaping the collection and the Fund's goals.

The Lumbee River Fund kicks off its first major project, "Telling Our Own Stories," at this year's Lumbee Homecoming celebration. "Telling Our Own Stories" is a photography and oral history project that documents Indian history from their own perspective. Malinda Maynor hopes that the project will not just be centered around the Pembroke and University communities. "So many Lumbee families have old photographs and memories, we want to reproduce those photos for the families and for the collection, so that no one has to give away their originals. At the same time, we'll do oral history interviews, preserving the memories in both words and pictures."

An information table for the Fund will be set up at the UNCP powwow on July 7th, where community members can learn about the Fund's activities. "At this event and throughout our operation, we hope to reach families from Prospect, Union Chapel, Saddletree, Fairgrove, Shannon, Hopewell—every Indian community."

Beginning Fall 2001, the Fund will sponsor community meetings to determine who is interested and what kinds of documents each community holds. Then, oral history and photography training sessions will be held for volunteers who want skills in preserving their own family history. In the end, the material that the volunteers collect will contribute to the archive and a photography and oral history exhibit. "This project promotes collaboration," says Bruce Barton, Curator of the Indian Education Resource Center, "and not just collaboration between Indians and non-Indians, but between the difference Indian communities and our different stories."

Miss Lumbee/Teen Miss Lumbee Pageant set for July 7th at UNCP

The Miss Lumbee/Teen Miss Lumbee pageants will be held on July 7, 2001 at the Givens Performing Arts Center beginning at 6:30 a.m. Five (5) beautiful Lumbee young ladies will vie for the title of Miss Lumbee and seven (7) for Teen Miss Lumbee. Admission for this event is \$10.00 per

person. The tickets are now on sale at the PAC box office. Tickets may be purchased from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and one hour prior to each performance. You may purchase tickets with Visa, Master Card or American Express.

Miss Lumbee Pageant Contestants



Hollie Beth Young
Parents: Lonnie & Joan Young



Jammi Lynn Lowry
Parents: Harvey & Linda Lowry



Pamela Louise Maynor
Parents: Chris Locklear & Emelita Maynor



Melissa Gail Jacobs
Parents: Robert & Mary Jacobs

Tuscarora Nation to hold plate sale July 6th

The Tuscarora Nation is having a Plate Sale on July 6, 2001 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. located at The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy in Maxton. Fried chicken, fresh fish, Chief Leon's Bar-B-Que, potato salad, baked beans, green beans, yams, and slaw will be served. Combination plates \$7.50, Regular \$5.00 and Sandwiches \$2.00. Proceeds will benefit the October Fall Gathering (Pow Wow).

Alicia Kathryn Thomas receives Doctor of Ministry Degree

DUE WEST, S.C. - Garry Revels of Hiddenite, N.C., was among the 58 students on whom degrees were conferred at Erskine Theological Seminary in commencement ceremonies held Sunday, May 20. He received the Doctor of Ministry Degree.

Revels has served as pastor of Pisgah/Trinity United Methodist Church since 1999. He is a graduate of Campbell University and is married to Angela Mercer Revels.

This year's commencement speaker was Dr. Ray King, Professor Emeritus of Church History, who spoke of reconciliation ministry. He encouraged the graduates to remember that "it is not your ministry, but that which God gives you."

Swimming class at Cultural Center

North Carolina Indian Culture Center is offering one-hour swimming classes for beginners, ages 3 and up. Classes will begin July 9, 2001 through July 19, 2001. Classes will run Monday through Thursday beginning at 9:00 a.m. The cost will be \$40.00 per person. Instructors are trained to work with children and are certified lifeguards. The deadline for registration is July 3, 2001.

Teen Miss Lumbee Contestants



Ranina Maynor Oxendine
Parents: Leroy & Katrina Oxendine



Lindsey Jacobs
Parents: Ricky & Gail Nagrampa



Jessica LaHope Oxendine
Parents: Calhoun, Jr. & Joycie M. Oxendine



Aja Terrell Locklear
Parents: Lynwood & Pam Locklear



Cordia Ann Brooks
Parents: Gary & Angelia Braades



Torie Nicole Locklear
Parents: Dwayne & Sharon Locklear



Erica Dellinger
Parents: Tony & Rhonda Godwin Dellinger

"THE BIDDIE SCHOOL"

The original location of the school was off HWY 72, approximately 2 miles traveling West from Maynor's Center, Pembroke, N.C. In the early 1970's the school was moved to the Board of Education of Lumberton, N.C. Rev. Lawrence Maynor and his brother Mr. Angus Archie Maynor are known teachers of this one room school house, which held 14 to 16 students.

For information, contact Doris & Wilson Chavis at (910)521-4481



Mary Joyce Beasley, on the right, shares a canoe with Jesse Oxendine on a river trip sponsored by the Lumbee River Fund. In the background, Josephine Humphreys and her husband, Tom, follow them. (Bruce Barton photo)

Lumbee Tradition in the Mid West



Amy S. Jones



Chad Jones

Chad Jones had a remarkable year with St. Ambros College Baseball 2001.

Chad, a former Davenport Assumption and Black-Hawk player, batted .366 with 30 RBI's enroute to earning the All Midwest Classic Conference honors. Jones, who stands 5'11", weighs 185 solid pounds, is catcher for the St. Ambros team, and maintains a 2.95 G.P.A. With his Major undecided, he is leaving a window open for opportunity.

Amy S. Jones just received an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (R.N.) degree from Scott Community College in Davenport, Iowa on May 15, 2001. Amy previously attended the University of Iowa for 2 years prior to her graduation, and plans to return to the university to obtain her Masters Degree in Nursing. She is presently employed with Genesis-West Hospital in Davenport, Iowa.

Chad and Amy are the children of Anthony & Susan K. Jones of Davenport, Iowa and the grandchildren of Atelia Mary (Chavis) Jones of Shannon, N.C.

Groups registered for Gospel Singing

PEMBROKE— Even before the annual Lumbee Homecoming begins the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center located on the outskirts of Pembroke will be hosting visitors that have never been there before. In the beginning, there were only two groups that were going to perform at the First Annual Matthew Lowery Memorial Fund Gospel Singing. Along with several members of the cast of the outdoor drama. When the flyers were printed and the media was told it was clear that things were going to change for the better.

The Cedar House Club House led by Mrs. Deborah Wilson of Lumberton and Mother Earth Creations owned by Mr. Hayes Allen Locklear donated a 3-foot ceramic angel and several pieces of Native American Pottery to be raffled off. Mrs. Sarah Locklear of The Printing Center in Lumberton donated the printing of the raffle tickets and the programs for the event. Groups began calling the registration number for the event. With registration closed on June 25th those that are scheduled to appear at Robert Bryant (Shoemaker John), Ray Lowery (Boss Strong), Michael Jacobs (from the 1982 cast), The East Point Community Choir of Lumberton (led by former cast member Joe McMillian), The Locklear Sisters, The Strong Family, Homeward Bound, Heaven's Song, Gerald Locklear, Rev. Jimmy Hunt, Mike Locklear, Lisa Fore and Tina Smith.

House Manager for the event is Edward Strickland who also plays Steve; Justin Jacobs who plays Zach will assist him. Bill Chavis, who is the Sound Engineer for the drama, will be doing the sound for the event and it will be coordinated by Vinita "Cookie" Maynor Clark. Volunteers will be needed to be ushers and to help those in wheelchairs. Raffle tickets and refreshments will be sold with the raffle occurring in the middle of the event.

"We sincerely hope that this event shines a positive light on the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, the many services and activities that they have to offer and the outdoor drama, "Strike at the Wind". "If we try, we can work together" Clark states.